



Barbara Lawton  
Lieutenant Governor

Wisconsin Task Force on  
**Arts and Creativity**  
In Education



Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent

\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Ben Nuckels, Office of the Lt. Governor, (608) 266-3516  
Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559  
Tom Hopfensperger, Wisconsin Arts Board, (608) 264-8188

**Lawton and Burmaster announce that Wisconsin is recipient of \$50,000 to  
promote the arts and creativity**

*Dana Foundation grant to provide support for "Creative Wisconsin Summit" and model communities projects*

MADISON—Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster today announced that Wisconsin has received a \$50,000 grant from the Dana Foundation to support the action plan of the Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education.

"We are very pleased to be the recipient of this grant from the Dana Foundation," said Burmaster. "With their support, we will be able to enhance our efforts to promote the arts and creativity in our schools and communities, helping our students develop critical 21st century skills that business leaders say they need."

"The Dana Foundation grant recognizes Wisconsin's national leadership role with the cutting-edge work of our Task Force on the Arts and Creativity in Education," Lawton said. "We are determined that Wisconsin's schools breed the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, our competitive edge in a global economy."

In March 2008, Burmaster and Lawton established the Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education, which they co-chaired. The task force was charged with examining state-level policies and local practices to determine their impact on the scope and access to quality arts education opportunities in Wisconsin.

Between April and October 2008, the task force held several public forums around Wisconsin. The group is now prepared to issue its recommendations, which would support arts education, creativity, and innovation and identify state and local agencies, organizations, and businesses that can collaborate to

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provide leadership and resources in support of those efforts. The recommendations will be released at the Creative Wisconsin Summit in Madison, on Friday, Jan. 9.

In addition to supporting the Creative Wisconsin Summit, the Dana Foundation grant will be used to assist planning by teams from selected Wisconsin communities as they work to expand arts and creativity in education at the local level. Those communities, selected from among those represented on the Wisconsin Task Force for Arts and Creativity in Education, are Sheboygan, Spring Green, Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Solon Springs, and Amery.

“The task force report will become a launch pad for action research to be conducted in communities in every corner of the state,” Lawton said. “Creative Wisconsin signals unprecedented collaborations that practice what they preach – that work creatively to drive a sustainable, growing economy fueled by generous Wisconsin residents sharing models for success.”

“The work of the task force to improve access to arts education and infuse creativity throughout the curriculum is vital for our students and the future of our state and nation,” said Burmaster. “We are grateful that the Dana Foundation is supporting our efforts to make the arts and creativity more visible in our schools and communities.”

The mission of the Dana Foundation’s arts education program is to support innovative professional development programs leading to improved teaching of the performing arts in public schools. The Dana Foundation is a private philanthropy with principal interests in brain science, immunology, and arts education.

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**NOTES:** This news release is available electronically at [http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009\\_01.pdf](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_01.pdf). Additional information about the Dana Foundation is available at <http://www.dana.org/artseducation.aspx>. To learn more about the Wisconsin Task Force on the Arts and Creativity in Education, visit <http://www.creative.wisconsin.gov>.